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ROYSTON

(YORKS.)

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1946.

Barnsley:
R. E. Griffiths Ltd., Printers, &c., Hanson Street.

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ROYSTON (YORKS.) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1946.

Councillor G. H. COOKE (*Chairman*).
,, A. CALCUTT (*Vice-Chairman*).
,, J. BERRY
,, R. CRAWSHAW J.P. (*Chairman of Council*).
,, T. DYER.
,, H. E. HOLMES, M.P., J.P. (Retired April, 1946).
,, W. HUMPHRIES, J.P. (Retired April, 1946).
,, L. W. JACKSON.
,, G. SHONE.
,, W. B. STUBBS.
,, W. WESTWOOD (Retired April, 1946).
,, W. MORRIS.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health—

HENRY BURTON PARE, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—

GEORGE EDWARD MILLAR, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Certified Meat Inspector
(Appointed 18th February, 1946).

Royston Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended the 31st December, 1946.

In spite of the abnormally rainy summer, the health of the people of Royston has been good and the incidence of infectious fevers very low.

The main industry of the District is coal mining. This is exceedingly arduous work and entails long hours underground, very often the work being done in a crouching position. It must be borne in mind, also, that lighting is artificial, ventilation is by means of airways and the men work in conditions of extremes of heat and water. Fatigue is inevitable, especially as there is a shortage of protein foods and fats which are essential for the replacement of muscular waste. This fatigue would account for a great deal of absenteeism about which so much has recently been written. My experience is that the middle-aged and elderly miner cannot work consistently, and he finds that a midweek rest is absolutely essential to enable him to carry on. Furthermore, many men have had an injury at some time, and the resultant condition is such that they require a periodical rest. On this account, and also as midweek sport, as a relaxation, takes place on Wednesday, might I suggest to the Ministry of Fuel and Power that this day instead of Saturday should be made the "play day." The incidence of absenteeism would, I am sure, be reduced.

I would like to draw special attention to the report, included in this Report, from the Divisional Officer for Education especially so far as it deals with the Provision of Meals and Milk at the various schools in the District. This policy should, in my opinion, be both a short term and a long term policy. By this means, necessary vitamins and other body-building foods are taken by children which can only have a beneficial effect on their general well being and physique. The true value of these benefits will become apparent in later life and in succeeding generations.

Following the breakdown in health and subsequent resignation of Mr. S. B. Evans, Mr. G. E. Millar, Additional Sanitary Inspector to the Hoyland Nether Urban District Council, was appointed Sanitary Inspector and took up his duties on Monday, 18th February, 1946.

The Death Rate is 8·516 per 1,000 population living per annum which is 2·769 lower than the Death Rate for 1945. The Birth Rate of 19·873 is 0·69 lower than that for 1945.

The Birth Rate is 0·773 higher than the birth rate for England and Wales and the Death Rate is 2·984 lower than the death rate for England and Wales.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases for the year gives no cause for alarm.

There were 24 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year as compared with 12 in 1945.

Only 2 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year as compared with 21 in 1945. It would appear, therefore, that the claims made for Prophylactic Diphtheria Immunisation are justified and that every effort should be made to encourage parents to have their children immunised.

There were no cases of Measles notified during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

(*a*) Area.

The Urban District covers an area of 1,452 acres.

(*b*) Population.

The estimated mid-summer population as given by the Registrar General is 7,749, an increase of 217. The natural increase of births over deaths for the whole year is 88.

(*c*) Number of Inhabited Houses.

During the year 6 new houses were occupied, bringing the number of houses in the District up to 2,086.

(*d*) Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value of the District at the close of the year was £25,507 and the amount produced by a penny rate was £99.

(*e*) Vital Statistics.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-summer population is 7,749.

(1) Deaths.

The following Table shows the causes of Death and is amended for inward and outward transfers :—

	M.	F.	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	0	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph.	0	0	0
Acute Inf. Enceph.	0	1	1
Cancer of Buc. Cav. & Oesoph (M), Uterus (F)	0	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	1	1
Cancer of Breast	0	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	3	2	5
Diabetes	0	1	1
Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions	2	1	3
Heart Disease	9	7	16
Other Diseases of Circulation System	1	0	1
Bronchitis	4	0	4
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	1	2
Appendicitis	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3

	M.	F.	Total
Nephritis	0	0	0
Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0	0
Premature Birth	2	1	3
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Disease	3	1	4
Suicide	0	0	0
Road Traffic Accidents	0	0	0
Other Violent Causes	1	1	2
All Other Causes	0	2	2
Totals ..	36	30	66

The General Death Rate is 8·516 per 1,000 population.

(2) Births.

During the year 1946, 84 Male Births and 70 Female Births, making a total of 154 Births, were registered, of which 5 Male Births and 1 Female Birth were illegitimate.

The Birth-Rate for the year is 19·873 per 1,000 estimated resident population as compared with 20·563 for the year 1945.

(3) Still Births.

There were 2 Male and 4 Female Still Births out of a total of 160 (Live and Still) Births. This yields a Rate of 37·5 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births. All the Still Births were legitimate.

(4) Infantile Mortality.

During the year 1946, a total of 10 Deaths of infants under one year of age gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 64·94 per 1,000 registered Live Births. The figure for 1945 was 38·71 per 1,000 Live Births.

No illegitimate infants under one year of age died during the year.

(5) Maternal Mortality.

There were no Deaths during the year due to Maternal Causes.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Ambulance Facilities.

During the year, the following Ambulances have been available for the use of the residents of the District :—

The Royston Motor Ambulance Committee.

The Kendray Isolation Hospital Ambulance for notified cases of Infectious Diseases.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Details of the work of the Sanitary Section of the Department are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

The following Report is submitted by Mr. A. H. Clark, the Surveyor :—

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the year 1946.

The Sewers in the District have given little cause for complaint during the year.

Sewers have been extended to allow for housing development on the Pinfold Housing Scheme and on Vicarage Lane.

The Pools Lane Disposal Works have continued to work satisfactorily and there have been no complaints from the Rivers Board with regard to the effluent.

No complaints have been received so far as the small disposal works at Summer Lane are concerned. In this respect however, the question of extending these works to make them capable of coping with any development on Summer Lane and the conversion of the privies at Guisley Terrace Cottages will be a matter for consideration in the not too distant future.

During the year, sewage sludge was disposed of to farmers and allotment holders.

Schools.

The following Report is submitted by Mr. F. Wilson, Divisional Officer for Education for the year January to December, 1946.

ROYSTON DISTRICT SCHOOLS. Year January - December, 1946.

School.	Dept.	Accommodation.	% ATTENDANCE DURING MONTH.												No. on Roll at	
			Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	July	Sept.
ROYSTON MODERN ..	S.B.	280	82·31	86·49	86·00	85·10	92 00	88·20	89·60	HOLIDAY.	88·73	90·91	88·19	87·41	125	142
do.	S.G.	320	76 32	84·21	84·21	85·59	93·15	92·78	91·15		90·63	88·05	88·05	86·79	130	160
ROYSTON COUNCIL ..	J.B.	248	80·00	87·22	89·55	91·20	90·27	89·54	89·50		88·99	90·75	89·24	90·54	219	227
do.	J G.	246	82·61	90·00	90·00	90·94	92·67	89·61	87·01		92·82	93·72	91·93	88·79	231	223
do.	Infants	328	73·66	82·14	83·80	87·43	89·04	86·00	84·86		87·84	88·94	83·84	85·96	284	222
ROYSTON C. E.	J.M.&I.	231	75·89	85·06	87·43	88·70	93·60	90·00	83·70		90·80	89·14	86·44	84·66	184	174

Particulars relating to the Provision of Meals and Milk taken on a School day in June, 1946.

School.	Dept.	No. of Children in School on Day of Return.	MEALS.		$\frac{1}{3}$ Pint Free.	$\frac{1}{3}$ Pint Payment.	$\frac{2}{3}$ Pints Free.	$\frac{2}{3}$ Pints Payment.
			Free.	For Payment (including Part Payment).				
ROYSTON MODERN ..	S.B.	110	55	16	..	38	23	12
do. ..	S.G.	110	37	50	..	30	30	24
ROYSTON COUNCIL ..	J.B.	200	56	84	..	..	65	86
do. ..	J.G.	211	63	97	..	141	56	5
do. .	Infants	247	48	113	..	184	52	..
ROYSTON C. E.	J.M. & I.	168	33	90	..	124	27	..

NOTE.—As from the 1st of August 1946, Milk is supplied free of charge to all children under the Milk in Schools Scheme. Owing to the present shortage of Milk, one third of a pint only is supplied daily.

Table showing Analysis of cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) notified during year 1946.

Notifiable Disease		At all Ages	Age Groups: Year: Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total Cases removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	M	7	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	F	17	...	...	...	3	1	6	7	...	...	...	...	...	24	...
Diphtheria	M	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
TOTALS ...		28	...	...	1	4	3	7	10	...	2	1	...	...	28	...

Number of cases of Diphtheria reported to be immunised in the above table is 2.
Number of children immunised during the year 1946 was 108.
102 of these were under 5 years of age and 6 between the ages of 5 and 14. Four children also received a secondary or reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOUS.

The following table shows particulars of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the District of Royston during the year 1946 :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1								
1—5								
5—15								
15—25								
25—35	2							
35—45	2				2			
45—55								
55—65					1			
65 upwards								
Totals	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0

So far as the Junior Schools on Midland Road are concerned, the question of the conversion of the existing trough closets has been referred to the County Education Authority.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

(*a*) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1946.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 24 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year as against 12 in 1945. There were no deaths. The following table shows the number of cases over the last five years.

1942	...	...	...	28
1943	...	...	...	23
1944	...	...	...	23
1945	...	...	...	12
1946	...	...	...	24

Diphtheria.

There were only 2 cases of Diphtheria notified during 1946 as against 21 in 1945.

Both cases were reported as having been immunised.

There were no deaths.

The following table shows the number of cases over the last five years.

1942	...	...	...	2
1943	...	...	...	26
1944	...	...	...	7
1945	...	...	...	21
1946	...	...	...	2

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

There was 1 case of Cerebro Spinal Fever notified during the year. There were no deaths.

Measles.

There were no cases of Measles notified during the year.

Whooping Cough.

There were no cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year, but according to the Death Returns, there was one death attributable to Whooping Cough.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

There was 1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year.

(*b*) Disinfection.

Disinfection was carried out at all houses where cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred, in addition to other premises where requests were received for disinfection, as follows :—

No. of houses disinfected	31
No. of separate rooms disinfected ...	56

(*c*) Diphtheria Immunisation.

As in previous years, the vast majority of this aspect of preventative medicine has been dealt with at the Child Welfare Clinics, special stress being placed on children below school age receiving treatment.

The value of the work done can begin now to be assessed by the smaller number of children contracting the disease.

(*d*) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There we no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year.

(*e*) Tuberculosis.

(1) Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.

During the year 1946, 4 new cases of Tuberculosis were were notified, of which 4 were Pulmonary and 0 Non-Pulmonary.

The following table shows the age distribution of the 4 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and of the 3 deaths certified to be Tuberculosis.

(2) Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

There were 22 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 9 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register at the 31st of December, 1945.

During the year, 2 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary cases were removed from the register for the following reasons :—

Reason.	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death	2 ...	0
Cured	0 ...	2
Remaining 31/12/46 ...	24 ...	7

(3) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was necessary under these Regulations during the year 1946.

(4) Public Health Act, 1936. Section 172.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year 1946.

(5) Prevention of Blindness, Public Health Act, 1936. Section 176.

No action was taken by the Urban District Council during the year 1946.

Conclusion.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials of the Council for their support and assistance during 1946.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. B. PARE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1947.

Table showing the Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases during 1946.

Notifiable Disease.		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	M	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	—24
	F	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	3	5	
Diphtheria	M	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	— 2
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	— 1
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Pyrexia	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	— 1
		2	3	2	1	1	...	1	1	2	3	5	7	—28

Comparison—Rate of Infectious Diseases per 1,000 population :—

	Royston.	England & Wales
Diphtheria	0·258	0·28
Scarlet Fever	3·097	1·38

Royston Urban District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The portion of the Report dealing with the Public Cleansing Service refers to the financial year ending 31st March, 1947.

Verminous Houses.

During the year, since my taking up duty on Monday, 18th February, 1946, this matter has received a considerable amount of attention.

The following properties were dealt with during the year:—

Type of House.	Infested.	Treated.
Council Houses	6 ...	6
Other Houses	41 ...	41

Houses found to be verminous have be treated according to the type of infestation found. Where bugs were found, these properties were sprayed with a liquid insecticide containing DDT, cockroach infestations were treated either with powder (Gammexane Dust) or by spraying, and several complaints of heavy house fly infestations were dealt with by spraying.

Houses suspected by the Council's Housing Manager to be verminous were inspected and treated and instructions left with the tenants for the thorough cleansing of the houses. In most cases the results have have been most satisfactory and the full co-operation of these tenants has been secured which has resulted in quicker clearance of infestations. In several instances, property owners have sought the assistance of the Department in dealing with vermin infested property and the results achieved have been most encouraging.

It is also gratifying to be able to report that in several instances tenants suspecting the presence of vermin have sought the advice of the Department. Small supplies of powder have been supplied free of cost to tenants complaining of cockroaches, and, judging by reports

received, this procedure has been greatly appreciated and has resulted in such infestations becoming gradually reduced. It would appear that householders are becoming more "vermin conscious" and are anxious to give every assistance in ridding their houses of pests.

So far as verminous Council Houses are concerned, it is to be deprecated that where tenants have been transferred from poor property to houses providing the amenities of Council Houses they have not shown more initiative in keeping their houses clean and have not made the best of the opportunities afforded them since being re-housed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(*a*) Water Supply.

The following report of water supplies in the District is submitted by Mr. A. H. Clark, Waterworks Manager.

General.

The Township receives its water in bulk from the Corporation of Barnsley *via* the Council's Service Reservoir at Carlton. The supply through the main meter has not been adequate at all times, but the Barnsley Waterworks Engineer continues to allow an alternative supply line to be used during night-time to keep up a sufficient head in the reservoir.

New Route of Supply.

During the year agreement was reached and arrangements made for a supply of water to the reservoir from a new 8" main. This should greatly improve the means of supply and obviate the necessity for resorting to the supplementary night-time supply referred to above.

The work will be executed as soon as supplies of materials can be obtained.

Distribution.

Complaints of an inadequate supply to the higher ground in Park View were received from several householders. The supply was made good by extending the main in Park View and connecting with that in Midland Road.

New Housing.

Over a mile of water main was laid on the Pinfold Lane Housing Site, the work being completed before the commencement of the erection of houses.

Consumption.

The amount of water recorded during the year showed a decrease of 0·24 gallon per head of population per day, compared with the previous year.

The Table below gives the consumption in gallons over the past six years :—

Year.	Total Annual Consumption.	Average Daily Consumption per head of population.
1941 ...	42,680,000 galls.	... 15·07 galls.
1942 ...	42,018,000 ,,	... 15·17 ,,
1943 ...	39,171,000 ,,	... 14·43 ,,
1944 ...	41,488,000 ,,	... 14·88 ,,
1945 ...	47,154,000 ,,	... 17·01 ,,
1946 ...	46,113,000 ,,	... 16·77 ,,

Water Samples.

No samples of main supply of water were taken during the year.

A request was received, however, from the owner of land on Lee Lane for samples of water to be taken from a well as, subject to the water being satisfactory, the owner proposed building on his land.

Samples of the water were obtained both for Bacteriological and Chemical examination. The results of these examinations are as follows :—

Bacteriological Examination.

Presumptive B. Coli ... 90 in 100 ml. water.

The examination shows that this water is unsatisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health.

The Analyst's report on the Chemical examinatton was :—

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	50
Chlorine	3·5
Nitrite	Nil
Nitrate	0·50
Free Ammonia	0·002
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·005
Metals	Nil
Total Hardness	22·9
Permanent Hardness	16·7
Temporary Hardness	6·2
pH	6·8

This water is of satisfactory organic quality, but it is moderately hard.

(*b*) Closet Accommodation.

Particulars of the various types of sanitary conveniences in the District at the end of 1946 are as follows :—

Type	No.
Water Closets	1,883
Privies	96

During the year one additional water closet was provided for existing property, and 6 were provided for new houses occupied during the year.

So far as conversion of privies is concerned, advice was sought by one owner of the possibility of coverting two privies to water closets. Work on the conversions was started before the end of the year. Inspections were made of 38 other privies with a view to action being taken for their conversion, but it was found that there might be difficulty in draining into the existing sewer, Furthermore, the shortage of labour and materials, and the urgent need for all available building labour to be used in the provision of new houses, made it necessary to hold the question of privy conversions in abeyance for the time being.

(*c*) Public Cleansing Service.

The following report on the Public Cleansing Service is for the financial year ended 31st March, 1947.

The following table shows the various types of refuse receptacles in use in the District at the end of the year :—

Dustbins	1,913
Dry Ashpits	Nil
Privy Middens ...	56

During the year, a New Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicle was put into service. It was found, however, that the width of the body of the new vehicle was too wide to allow it to be used for the cleansing of some of the privy middens. Hired transport (horse and cart) was engaged for this work.

The following table shows the number of refuse receptacles emptied and loads removed during the year, together with their estimated weight. The estimated weight is based on test weighings of representative loads from various parts of the District.

Receptacles	No. Emptied	No. of Loads	Estimated Weight
			T C Q
Dustbins	83,460	1,331	3,593 14 0
Privy Middens	343	121	225 10 0
Trade Refuse		125	62 10 0
Totals	83,803	1,577	3,881 14 0

Costing.

House & Trade Refuse	Collection	Disposal	Totals
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages	1,223 2 8	284 14 6	1,507 17 2
Petrol and Oil .	57 13 6	...	57 13 6
Spares, Repairs, Tools, etc. ...	48 8 11	...	48 8 11
Hired Transport ...	5 13 0	...	5 13 0
TOTALS — EXCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation ...	1,334 18 1	284 14 6	1,619 12 7
Cost per Ton ...	6 10	1 6	8 4
General Administrative Charges and Depreciation ...	219 13 1	18 7 3	238 0 4
Total Cost INCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation ...	1,554 11 2	303 1 9	1,857 12 11
Cost per Ton ...	8 0	1 7	9 7

Estimated Population (June, 1946)	...	...	7,749
No. of Houses or Premises	...	...	2,370
Rateable Value of District	...	...	£25,507
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	£99
Total Rates in the £	...	...	21/3

	T.	C.	Q.
Total Tonnage Collected	3,881	14	0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 pop. per annum	500	18	3
Output of Refuse per 1,000 pop. per day ...	1	7	2
Average length of Haul		1 mile	

Based on estimated weight, the weight of house refuse collected per 1,000 population per day was equal to 27 cwts. I am of the opinion that this figure is high in comparision with the figures for the whole country, but it must be borne in mind, that in a District like this where the majority of available labour is employed at collieries and receives "home coal," which contains a high proportion of shale, etc., the character of refuse to be collected is considerably denser than is the case in residential areas.

In calculating the cost per ton, no allowance is made for income from the sale of salvaged materials. Income from this source during the year amounted to £233 10s. 8d. of which details are given in that portion of the Report dealing with Salvage. This income reduces the cost per ton (collection and disposal) to 8s. 4d. per ton and is, therefore, equivalent to a reduction of 1s. 3d. per ton.

Salvage.

The collection of various classes of Salvage during the year has remained an integral part of the Public Cleansing Service.

Taken as a whole, the increased output of Salvage during the year is pleasing. Nevertheless, I feel that still more could be done, particularly so far as newsprint is concerned. It is pleasing to be able to report, however, that output of paper during both half years made the Council eligible for the increased collection bonus.

The weights of the various classes of Salvage collected during the year shown in the following Table are those of materials collected by the Public Cleansing Service only and do not include any income from materials sold by the Highways Department. Nor is any income from the sale of organic fertiliser (dried sewage sludge) included.

So far as Kitchen waste is concerned, I understand that there have been long standing mutual arrangements between pig and poultry keepers and householders whereby this class of material is collected regularly and used for the feeding of pigs and poultry, but I have been unable to ascertain even the approximate weight collected.

Salvage Statistics.

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1947.

	T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	s.	d.
Paper	29	10	3	20	190	2	1
Increased Output Bonus ...					4	0	0
Ferreous Metals	2	4	1	0	4	15	8
Non-Ferreous Metals ...	0	7	1	5	4	12	7
Rags, Rugs, etc.	2	7	0	12	14	13	9
Bones	0	7	0	0	2	0	3
Bottles, Jars and Cullet ...	6	6	1	0	13	6	4
	41	2	3	9	£233	10	8

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(1) *Number and nature of Inspections.*

The following Table shows particulars of Inspections made during the year: —

Nature of Inspection	No. of Visits Paid
HOUSING.	
Housing and Public Health Acts	1147
Verminous Premises	190
Miscellaneous Housing	146
Works in progress	285
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.	
Slaughterhouses	48
Other Premises	26
Butchers	18
Fishmongers and Poulterers	10
Grocers	13
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	12
Cowsheds	4
Ice Cream Premises	19
Sampling—Ice Cream	6
Water	3
Miscllaneous Food Visits	25
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Inquiries and Disinfection	75
Miscellaneous	52

Nature of Inspection	No. of Visits Paid
GENERAL SANITATION.	
Water Supply	27
Drainage	138
Stables and Piggeries	42
Petroleum	5
Fried Fish Shops	11
Factories	31
Workplaces	17
Bakehouses	4
Public Conveniences	37
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	11
Refuse Collection	113
Refuse Disposal	137
Rats and Mice	3,777
Schools	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	302
Interviews	293
Salvage	154
Disposal of Billeting Equipment	162
Total Number of Inspections	7,357

(2) *Complaints Received.*

During the year 163 complaints were received, details of which are as shown below :—

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Verminous Premises	26
Dampness	5
Dilapidations	25
Defective Rain Water Pipes	3
Defective W.C. Service Pipes	10
Choked Drains	21
Defective W.C. Cistern	4
Accumulation of Refuse	13
Defective W.C. Apartments	19
Rats and Mice	14
Defective W.C. Pedestal	4

Nature of Complaint	No Received.
Defective Sink	1
Defective Sink Waste Pipe	2
Defective Range	6
Defective Floor	4
Overcrowding	3
Nuisances—Pigs	1
Water in Cellar	2
Smells from Sink	2
Rabbits	1
Water	1
	163

Factories and Workshops.

During the year 48 inspections were carried out at the various premises registered. No complaints were received from H. M. Inspector of Factories regarding the condition or insufficiency of sanitary conveniences or cleanliness in general.

Two cases of uncleanliness were found during the year which were remedied as a result of informal action.

Smoke Abatement.

No nuisance from Smoke was noted within the District during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

There are 16 premises registered under the provisions of Section 14 (2) of the above-mentioned Act.

These premises have been inspected at various times during the year and have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Housing.

During the year 1946, 416 houses were inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 1,138 visits being made.

Housing repairs were carried out, but difficulty was experienced on account of the shortage of labour and materials.

The question of overcrowding becomes more vexed under present circumstances and it is very difficult to keep a close check on families known to be overcrowded. Conditions have become worse by reason of the fact that young people who have married during the war are living with parents because of the extreme difficulty of obtaining housing accommodation.

Moral overcrowding presents an ever increasing difficulty. In many instances, members of families who were only children when the Overcrowding Survey was taken in 1935 are now adolescents and many are well advanced in their teens and should have separate sleeping accommodation. Furthermore, in a district such as this where the vast majority of the cottage property consists of a living room and scullery on the ground floor with two bedrooms on the first floor, steps to be taken for the proper separation of the sexes are neither readily nor easily practicable. In addition to this, male members of the family working at the collieries work "shift" work, all domestic washing and cooking is carried out in the living room and householders find it impracticable to erect beds downstairs.

The return of men and women from service with the Forces has aggravated the position still further, and parents have allowed married children to stay with them pending their being able to obtain separate housing accommodation.

Another factor, which in many cases is overlooked, is that a family unit, generally speaking, is considerably less than it was two or three generations ago so that considerable numbers of houses will be required before separate families are able to have their own homes.

It must be borne in mind, also, that there are throughout the District quite a number of houses which before the outbreak of the recent war were approaching the state when formal action would have been taken and the houses demolished. The condition of these houses has deteriorated still further during the war years, and other houses which were border line cases have now become so dilapidated that the cost of reconditioning them would be prohibitive.

Vigorous prosecution of the Housing Programme will be necessary, therefore, firstly, to provide accommodation for those living in overcrowded conditions, and, secondly, so that unfit houses may be either demolished or reconditioned under statutory undertakings.

It must be pointed out, too, that the shortage of labour and materials are a serious handicap to owners who are anxious to maintain their property in good repair.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The food supplies of the District have received a fair amount of attention.

No samples of milk were obtained during the year, but I am hoping that in the near future it may become possible to institute a system whereby samples of milk will be obtained at reasonably frequent intervals both for bacteriological examination and also under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

During the year two Supplementary Licences were granted, one for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk and the other for the sale of Pasteurised Milk.

Ice Cream.

Following the outbreak of Typhoid Fever at Aberystwith, much extra attention was paid to the production and sale of ice cream. The only premises in the District where ice cream is actually made received constant attention and this producer came on numerous occasions for information and advice.

Three samples of ice cream were obtained during the year and submitted to the County Laboratory at Wakefield for bacteriological examination. No adverse report was received on any of these samples, but in one instance there was a suspicion of dust contamination on the knives used for cutting blocks of ice cream prior to its being wrapped.

Attention was drawn to this when sending a copy of the report to the producer — the ice cream was manufactured outside the District — and steps were taken to obviate this possible source of contamination.

The focussing at public attention to risks of infection from eating products such as ice cream is almost sure to result in steps being taken by the Trade to minimise any such risks and it is hoped will eventually result in ice cream being sold only in waxed containers or wrapped.

Meat Inspection.

As in previous years, meat for sale in the various butchers' shops in the District was slaughtered either at the Hemsworth Abattoir or the Barusley Abattoir.

A considerable amount of slaughtering of pigs kept by householders was carried out. Arrangements were made with the Local Food Executive Officer for circular letters to be sent out with licences to slaughter asking the owners of pigs to notify the date and time of slaughter in order that all carcases dressed might be inspected. The results of this action were most encouraging, and except in very few instances, notice of slaughter was received, and the carcases of 70 pigs were inspected.

The standard of the pigs killed was very good and reflects great credit upon the owners, who must have gone to considerable trouble to collect waste food, etc., from householders to help feed their pigs.

The following table shows the small quantity of disease found, and it is gratifying to be able to report that in each instance, the owner of the pig in question willingly surrendered the unfit portion or organ for destruction.

Tuberculosis	...	One pig's head
		One pig's pluck
Cystic ...	...	One pig's liver
Abscesses	...	One pig's liver

Other Foods.

Details of other foodstuffs found to be unsound and which were voluntarily surrendered are given below :—

Tinned Foodstuffs	No. of Tins
Peas	3
Milk	29
Salmon	2
Stewed Steak	2
Baked Beans	2
Soup	2
Beetroot	1
Pilchards	7
	48

Other Foodstuffs	
Cured Fillets	39 lbs.
Cured Whiting	28 lbs.
Plaice	42 lbs.
Haddock	280 lbs.
Cod	168 lbs.
Sausages	24 lbs.
	581 lbs.
Eggs	50

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During the year a considerable amount of work was done in connection with the destruction of rats and mice. The Ministry of Food (Infestation Division) made repeated applications for the Council to undertake the treatment of the sewers for rats. It was decided that a full-time Rodent Operative be appointed, and Mr. W. Thornton took up his duties in this capacity on Monday, 29th of July, 1946.

Two full treatments of the sewers were undertaken during the year and a survey of the whole District for the presence of rats was started.

It was found there was a reservoir infestation of rats on the Council's Refuse Tip and in the Salvage Sheds. The initial treatment gave excellent results, but it was found necessary to re-treat on several occasions. At the end of the year, there was very little evidence of residual infestation on and about the Tip.

The Sewage Disposal Works were also treated, with good results.

Treatment of private properties by "Block Control" under the Ministry of Foods Special Scheme was also undertaken and other infestations were treated on payment of time and material.

The estimated kill, using the Ministry of Food Formula, was well over 1,000 rats.

Public Conveniences.

The question of additional public conveniences in the District was also considered during the year, but it was felt that the need for making all available labour available for work on Housing Schemes should receive prior consideration.

It must be borne in mind, however, that except in the Park, there is no public sanitary convenience for females in the District. This is becoming an ever more urgent necessity and the matter will require consideration in the not too distant future.

So far as the existing public conveniences are concerned it is a matter to be deplored that residents of the Township do not exercise more care in the use of such facilities. On numerous occasions during the year, it was found that the urinal erected on Cross Lane just before the war had been very badly misused, and one cannot help but wonder whether the persons misusing such conveniences realise that they are misusing their own property. It must be said that such misuse does not give much encouragemennt to provide modern and up-to-date public conveniences, but it is the duty of all ratepayers to ensure that public property is properly used.

Mortuary.

During the year, the question of replacing the existing gas lighting in the mortuary by electric lighting was considered. Tenders for the work were sought and the electrical installation and complete re-decoration of the mortuary was completed towards the end of the year.

Conclusion.

In addition to the activities set out in the foregoing Report. the duty of disposing of surplus Government Equipment issued to the Council for use in connection with the reception of evacuees was carried out by the Health Department and the assistance of Members of the W.V.S. in this respect must be acknowledged.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee and to the Medical Officer of Health my appreciation for their unfailing support and encouragement.

I am also glad of the opportunity of expressing my appreciation and thanks to all the Members of the Council and to the other Officials for the support and help I have at all times received in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
GEORGE E. MILLAR,
Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

July, 1947.